REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

-From Porter & Coates we have received "Lethair," by the Right Honorable B. Disraeli. Published by D. Appleton & Co. Disraeli has outlived the rather dubious reputation he achieved in his younger days as the author of several third-rate novels which would have been forgotten long ago if their author had not made a distinguished mark in politics and filled some of the highest offices under the British Government. The two most remarkable things about his new attempt in the field of fiction are that a cool, cunning, and far-sighted man like Disraeli should be willing to subject himself to the eaustic criticisms that intelligent readers cannot but bestow upon such a performance as "Lothair;" and, secondly, that the leading journals of England and America should be able to find anything in it worthy of the lavish praises that have been bestowed upon it on both sides of the Atlantic. It is possible to account for this last mystery, however, on the supposition that the professional critics did not take the trouble to read the book, as indeed they scarcely could have done, as most of the reviews appeared within a few hours of its publication. If "Lothair" had been written by some obscure scribbler, and not by a prominent British politician and ex-Premier, it would have been dismissed with half a dozen lines by most of the journals that are now lauding it to the skies, and it would have been forgotten even by the patrons of the circulating libraries within six months. Being the work of an eminent public man and an ex-Premier, it is, of course, entitled to more respectful treatment than this, and really "Lothair" is worth reading, if only to find out what an intolerably poor and flashy nevel a British ex-Premier can produce. Mr. Disraeli never wrote a novel in his life that was worthy of perusal on its own account, and "Lothair" is his most indifferent performance. The plot is designed to expose the machina-

tions of the Catholic Church in England, and is an exposition of the fine old Tory Church and State doctrine of which Mr. Disraeli is one of the principal champions on the floor of the House of Commons. The hero is supposed, on good grounds, to represent the young and wealthy Marquis of Bute, whose conversion to the Roman creed created such a sensation a few years ago, and the other principal personages are labelled by the English reviewers with the names of prominent men and women of the day. Mr. Disraeli describes only high life, the very highest kind of highest life-so high, indeed, that we have great doubts whether anything like it exists on this poor, miserable earth of ours or anywhere else than in the imaginations of flashy story-writers. To be sure, Mr. Disraeli has had opportunities for studying the personal appearance, the habits, and the habitations of the British aristocracy such as are accorded to but few story-writers; but admitting all this, there is such an extraordinary bigness about the houses, such a more than than Oriental gorgeousness about the furniture, such a bloodedness about the horses, and such a superfine refinement about the dukes and duchesses, the earls and countesses, and all the other high-born people who figure in "Lothair," that we cannot resist the impression that Mr. Disraeli never saw anything of the kind in either England, Scotland, Wales, or Ireland, or anywhere else but in his own excited imagination. This sort of thing answers very well for the readers of the sensation story papers, but Mr. Disraell in his "Lothair" addresses a different kind of audience, and as he is no novice in the art of novel-making, we have a right to expect something better from him. Even this super-gorgeousness of description, however, might be excused if there was some substantial merit behind it, but, with the exception of occasional brilliant passages, where the politician and man of the world are shown rather than the novelist, there is really nothing in "Lothair" that will redeem it from utter condemnation as a work of art.

-Very different from the above is "Hammer and Anvil," by Friedrich Spielhagen, published by Leypoldt & Holt, which we have received from Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger. With this author novel-making is really a fine art, and his productions will have a permanent interest that no extraneous circumstances can ever give to those of the brilliant British politician. Spielhagen has a brightness of wit and humor and a vivacity of style that are somewhat remarkable in a German, combined with a high moral purpose and a predisposition for metaphysical speculation and refined mental analysis that are characteristic of the best German style of writing. In "Hammer and Anvil" the problem of capital and labor is considered, and although it is not obtruded offensively, the whole purpose of the book is to indicate a solution of the great social problem of the day upon a broad basis of humanity. These things, however, are subordinated in a great degree, and the novel is interesting on account of its characters rather than for its plot, which is rather vague and shadowy.

The characters are drawn with that masterly skill for which Spielhagen is remarkable, and which places him in the front rank of the novelists of the day. None but an artist of genius could have indicated with a few decided but delicate touches such a character as "Constance von Zehren." beside which the "Lady Audleys" and other beautiful demons of the Braddon school of fiction are mere daubs of pitch. As a novel, "Hammer and Anvil" is not equal to "Problematic Characters," but it is a work of very decided

merit that will repay more than one perusal. The same house sends us "Miss Van Kortland," by the author of "My Daughter Eli. nor." Published by Harper & Brothers. This is a fresh, light, and very entertaining novel of American life. It has some very palpable faults of style, and the author sometimes Europe. This led to that prodigious exten-fails to be brilliant because he strives to be sion of his operations, until he had vast faults of style, and the author sometimes

so, but the story is well told and the characters sketched with much skill, while the descriptions of scenery and incident show the writer to be a keen observer who has the artist faculty of transferring the result of his observations to his pages and making his readers see as vividly as he does himself.

-From the American Sunday-School Union we have received the following religious stories for children:- "Reports, and the Mischief They Do;" "On Looking Seedy;" "We versus I;" "Experiences of a Church Plate," and "Born with a Silver Spoon in His Mouth."

-From Turner & Co. we have received the June number of Our Young Folks, which presents an attractive list of reading matter for young people, nicely illustrated by artists of ability.

Messrs. Turner & Co. also send us the Phrenological Journal for June, which contains a variety of information on the subject of bumps.

-The June number of the Riverside Monthly has a poetical contribution by Hans Christian Andersen, entitled "A Spring Song," and a number of entertaining stories and sketches by favorite writers, and pictures by Stephens, Hoppin, and other artists.

-The Bureau is the title of a publication which was commenced at Chicago on the 1st of October, 1869, as a chronicle of the commerce and manufactures of Chicago and the Northwest. The enterprise succeeded far beyond the anticipations of its projectors, and it was determined to merge the proprietorship into that of a company, in order to extend the field of its influence and usefulness. The Bureau is an advocate of protection as the only sound policy, and it is devoted to the promotion of all the industrial interests of the Northwest. The May number. which is now before us, is filled with interesting and valuable articles, original and selected, and we commend it to the consideration of our business men who wish to be informed about industrial and commercial matters not only in Chicago but in all parts of the United States.

-The May number of The Journal of The Franklin Institute contains several interesting papers on scientific subjects.

-The Central News Company, No. 505 Chesnut street, send us the latest numbers of Punch and Fun.

THE JUNE MAGAZINES.

"THE ATLANTIC."

Turner & Co. send us the June number of The Atlantic, which has the following table of contents:-"Joseph and his Friend," by Bayard Taylor;" "Drives from a French Farm," by P. G. Hamerton; "William Hazlitt," by H. T. Tuckerman; "In June," by Nora Perry; "French and English Illustrated Magazines," by Eugene Benson; "Song;" "Oldtown Fireside Stories, I. The Ghost in the Mill," by Harriet Beecher Stowe;" "Let us be Cheerful," by Mrs. E. Lynn Linton; "Master Treadwell," by J. E. Babson; "A Idler's by Hiram Rich; "The Correspondence of Napoleon Bonaparte," by James Parton: "The English Governess at the Siamese Court." III: "The Logic of Marriage and Murder," by Henry James; "Reviews and Literary Notices," by John Fiske, Henry James, T. W. Higginson, J. J. Piatt, and W. D. Howells.

From Mr. James Parton's review of "The Correspondence of Napoleon Bonaparte" we quote as follows:-

At St. Helena, in conversation with the companions of his exile, Napoleon designated the moment when he first felt the stirrings of lawless ambition. "It was not till after Lodi," he said, "that I was struck with the possibility of my becoming a decided actor on the scene of political events. Then was enkindled the first spark of a lofty am-Having a lively recollection of bition." this sentence, which we read long ago in Mr. Abbott's entertaining volume upon Napoleon at St. Helena, we had the curiosity to turn to the letters written by General Bonaparte at the time, to see if there was anything in them to confirm his statement. Yes: just after Lodi, for the first time he begins to protest and swear that his only ambition is to serve France in any capacity which the Directory may be pleased to assign him. Five days after his troops had given him, at the bridge of Lodi, that surprising proef of devotion, he writes to his patron, Carnot, "Whether I make war here or elsewhere is indifferent to me. To serve my country, to deserve from posterity one leaf of our history, to give the Government proofs of my attachment and devotion—this is all my ambition. It is a touch worthy of Shakespeare. Thus might the great dramatist have indicated the

birth of an ambition. It was after Lodi, too, that he showed his eager promptitude to reward those who served him, and his tact in adapting the reward to the nature of the case. The battle of Lodi was won by the column that rushed across the bridge in the face of thirty pieces of cannon and the fire of infantry. The General caused a printed list of the names of the men composing the column to be posted in every district of France where any one of them resided! Could any reward have been more thrilling to the men or more promotive of the next conscrip-tion? At a later day it became a custom with him to have such lists posted upon the parish churches of the soldiers whom he desired to honor. But when once a priest presumed to read the list to his parishioners in the church, the master wrote from Vienna to the minister of police to for-bid the repetition of the act; because, said he, in substance, if priests may announce victories, they may comment upon them, and if bad news should arrive, they may comment upon that. "Priests must be used with civility, but not made too much of."

The correspondence, reticent as it is concerning whatever tends to exhibit Napoleon vulnerable, shows plainly enough that it was Nelson who destroyed him. Nelson kit him two blows-Nile and Trafalgar. By the battle of the Nile he penned him in Egypt, killed his Indian projects, and reduced him to absolute paralysis for a year and a half. By Trafalgar he again destroyed the French naval power, made invasion of England impossible, and compelled Napoleon to continue his policy of fighting England upon the territories of her allies. In other words, he penned him in the continent of

armies in Spain, Italy, Prussia, Russis, and France, and had so distended his "empire" that ten cold nights in Russia at the time when his power seemed greatest caused his ruin. This was Nelson's work, and well Napoleon knew it; for there is not in all these volumes one allusion to the battle of Trafalgar. It is a tell-tale silence. Amid the bulletins of Austerlitz few except the master knew what had happened upon the ocean; and except himself perhaps no one comprehended its importance.

The great question of the reign of Napoleon is: Which was to blame for breaking the peace of Amiens, the English Government or the French? This correspondence confirms the constant assertion of French historians, that the responsibility is to be laid at England's door. Bonaparte wanted peace; that is plain. Peace was his interest; that is undeniable. England had agreed to evacuate Malta, and when the time came refused to give it up; that also is certain. England should have frankly accepted Napoleon as head of the French Government, and forborne to give a pretext for breaking the peace to a man so exquisitely skilled in the use of deadly weapons. On the other hand, what absurdity more complete than for France to go to war with Great Britain for a little distant island in which neither of them had any rights? We cannot dwell upon this point, although there is no volume of the correspondence in which Napoleon's talents are more brilliantly exhibited than in the one which contains his letters and instructions previous to the declaration of war in 1802. He had the advantage of being technically in the right; and England labored under the disadvantage of putting forward a pretext, instead of the real grievance. Napoleon's matchless skill in the use of deadly weapons was the real grievance. The peace was broken, coalitions were formed and renewed, because four crowned persons in Europe felt that they were not safe while such a man controlled the resources and commanded the armies of France.

The proper head of a nation is a sound average man-one whom the average citizen can recognize as a man and a brother; one who will keep the brilliant minister or great general always in mind of the homely material with which governments have to deal; one who will embody and represent the vis inertia of things. Bismark, firmly astride of Prussia, would ride that great kingdom to the Devil, as Bonaparte did France or Hamilton might the United States, if average human nature had not stood in his way, repre-sented in the august person of George Washington. It is mankind whom the head of a government should represent. The exceptionally gifted individual who serves under him needs his restraining slowness and caution, as much as the chief needs the light and help of minds specially endowed.

Of all this Napoleon knew nothing.

His poor ambition was to reign. "For the Pope," said he, "I am Charlemagne, because I reunite the crown of France to that of the Lombards;" and he told his brother Joseph, when he put him up as King of Naples, that he wished his "blood" to reign in Naples as long as in France, for "the kingdom of Naples was necessary to him," It is at once ludicrous and affecting to see such a man so infatuated with the part he was playing, to read in his letters to kings, emperors, and popes such expressions as "my house," "the princes of my house," "my capital" (meaning Paris), "my good city of Lyons," "my armies," "my fleet," "my kingdom of Italy;" and to read elaborate papers rearranging states and nations in in which everything was considered except the will of the people inhabiting them.

Nothing will astound the reader of these volumes more than the bulletins, dictated by Napoleon on the field, and published in the Moniteur by his command. It was those bulletins that kept France in a state of de-lirium, and drew to distant fields of carnage the flower of her youth and the annual harvest of her educated talent. He was accustomed to send every day or two from the seat of war, when anything extraordinary had occurred, chatty, anecdotical bulletins, designed chiefly to keep up the martial frenzy of the French; but he inserted also many paragraphs intended to sow dissension among his enemies, knowing well that these documents would be closely scanned at every court, club, and headquarters in Europe. Those anecdotes of the devotion of the troops to the Emperor which figure is so many biographies and histories, here they are, where they originated, in the bulletins dictated by Napoleon's mouth, corrected by his hand, and published by his command in the official newspaper of his empire, and now given to the world as part of his correspond-ence by the head of his family!

For military men we must find room for a curious order addressed to Marshal Berthier at Boulogne, in 1805, just as Napoleon was about to begin that swift, silent march across Europe which ended at Austerlitz. It shows how little magic there was in his proceedings, and by what homely, plodding labors the most brilliant results are produced. "My cousin" (he called all his marshals cousin) "I desire you to have two portable boxes made, with compartments-one for me and the other for yourself. The compartments will be arranged in such a way that, with the aid of written cards, we can know at a glance the movements of all the Austrian troops, regiment by regiment, battalion by battalion, even to detachments of any considerable magnitude. You will divide the compartments into as many divisions as there are Austrian armies, and you will reserve some pigeon-holes for the troops which the aperer of Germany has in Hungary, in Bohemia, and in the interior of his States. Every fifteen days you will send me a statement of the changes that have taken place during the preceding fifteen days; availing yourself for this purpose, not only of the German and Italian newspapers, but of all the information which my minister for foreign affairs may send you; with whom you will correspond for this object. Employ the same individual to change the cards and to draw up the statement of the Austrian armies every fifteen days. P. S. You must intrast this business to a man who will have nothing else to do, whe knows German well, and who will take all the German and Italian papers, and make the changes which they indicate."

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